

# Romaine Quinn

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State Representative • Serving the 75th Assembly District

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## **Representative Quinn Approves Constitutional Amendment on Election of Chief Justice**

MADISON – Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake) voted on Thursday to pass a bill designed to inject a greater degree of democracy in the state Supreme Court chief justice selection process, by allowing state Supreme Court justices to elect their own chief justice for a two-year term. Currently, seniority is the sole criteria in selecting the chief justice.

“This is what democracy looks like,” said Rep. Quinn. “The best leaders are not necessarily the longest-standing members. The system of allowing members to elect their leaders has proven successful in the legislature; the judicial branch should be granted the same privilege. By allowing the justices to choose based on merit, the people of Wisconsin will gain a better-functioning court.”

A 2011 poll by [20/20 Insight Polling](#) clearly illustrated that this legislation is supported by the people of Wisconsin with 62 percent of those polled in favor of the proposal.

“This legislation is something people want,” said Rep. Quinn. “And ultimately, voters will decide whether or not to approve this change to the constitution.”

In order to amend the state constitution, two subsequent legislatures must pass the same resolution and voters must approve the change in a statewide referendum.

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